

LETTER
FROM
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
TRANSMITTING

Letter from Second Assistant Postmaster-General, in relation to insufficiency of appropriation for inland mail service, &c.

DECEMBER 9, 1879.—Referred to Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed, with accompanying document.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., December 8, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, calling attention to the insufficiency of the appropriation for inland mail transportation for the present fiscal year, and asking that the sum of \$2,000,000 be appropriated out of the unexpended balances of former appropriations for that purpose during the past four years, which have been covered into the Treasury, and be made available to meet the necessities of the service and of the country during the current fiscal year.

I cordially indorse the request, and take this occasion to suggest that the business interests of the country would be promoted by the prompt and favorable action of Congress.

Very respectfully,

D. M. KEY,
Postmaster-General.

The Hon. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., December 6, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the appropriation for inland mail transportation on Star routes, for the current fiscal year, has proved insufficient to meet the wants of the rapidly growing service.

The annual cost of the service now in operation is \$7,620,004, while the appropriation is but \$5,900,000. Not only will the present appropriation allow no increase of mail facilities during the year, but it will be necessary to curtail the existing service in order to bring its cost within the appropriation.

Believing that this cannot be done without great injury to many deserving communities, and further that pressing necessity exists for increased service in many places, I venture to suggest a method of relief

During the four fiscal years last past, viz, 1876 to 1879, there has been covered back into the Treasury of unexpended balances of appropriations for inland mail transportation \$3,965,468.27.

In view of this fact, I have the honor to request your recommendation to Congress that about one-half this amount, say \$2,000,000, be reappropriated for mail transportation on Star routes.

This will enable the department to maintain the present service, and besides afford a margin for reasonable and necessary increase during the remaining half of the fiscal year.

Very respectfully, &c.,

THOS. J. BRADY,

Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

Hon. D. M. KEY,
Postmaster-General.

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